



IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

Climate Change and Water Governance in Cambodia

**Phalla Chem, Research Fellow and Program Coordinator
of Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)**

Sour Kim, Research Associate of CDRI

20 June 2013

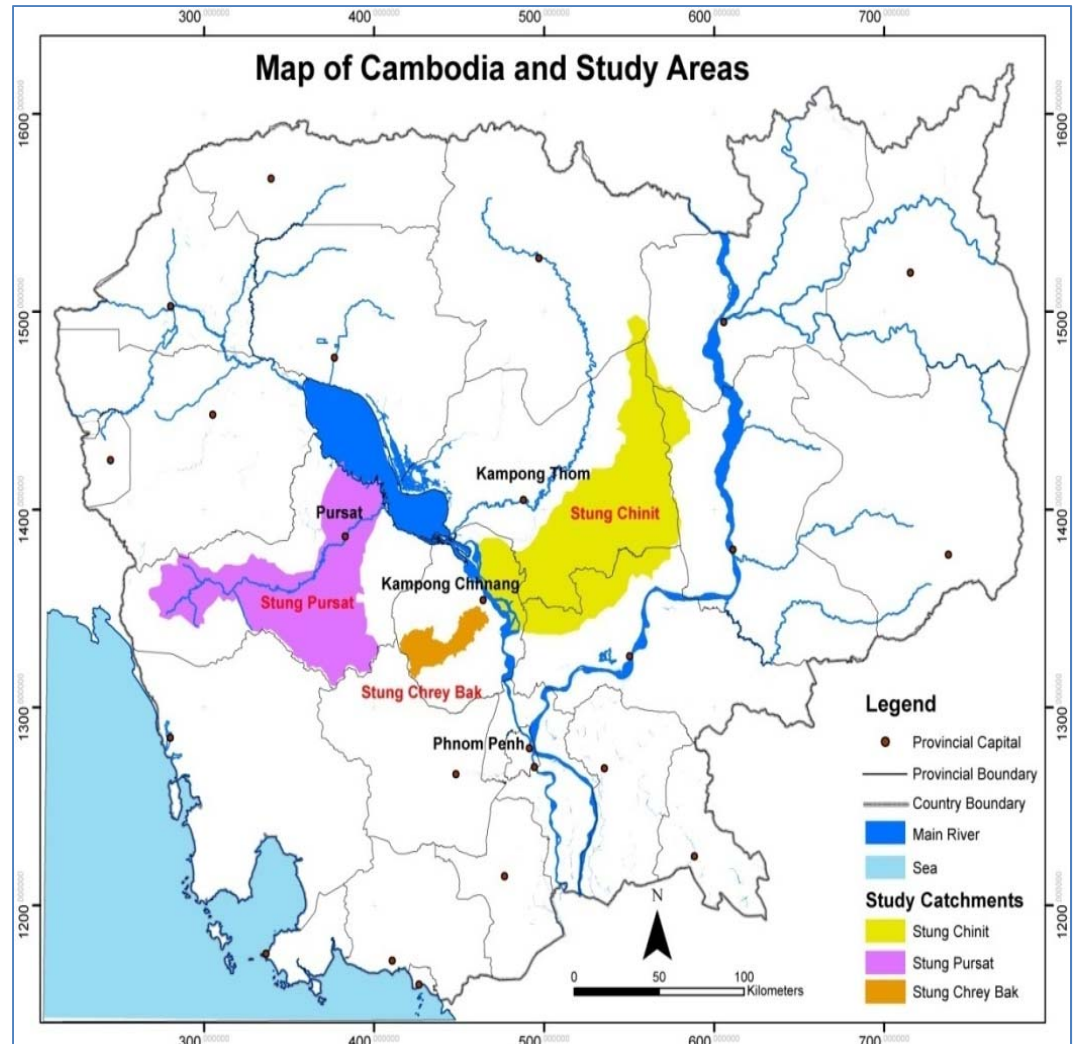
Overview

This new study looks at how change in natural and human systems determine ***vulnerability and adaptive capacity*** of rural population and the government's responses.

1. Assess the ***gaps*** in existing research on the water-related impacts of climate change in Cambodia and explore ***existing methods*** and generate recommendations to improve consistency in measurement of indicators across future studies undertaken in Cambodia;
2. Undertake ***hydrological change*** analysis, which results from both climate change and/or infrastructure development - to understand the implications of the interplay between climate change and human impacts on ***water security***;
3. Assess the effectiveness of existing policies and institutional arrangements for ***water governance*** and formulate operational solutions to bridge the identified gaps.

Overview (Tonle Sap lake)

- Located in Central Cambodia, biggest freshwater lake in SEA (300,000ha – 1.6 million ha)
- Rich in natural resources (300,000-450,000 of fish catch/year in 2005) and biodiversity
- 4.1 million people (2012) make their living on fishery and water for farming activities



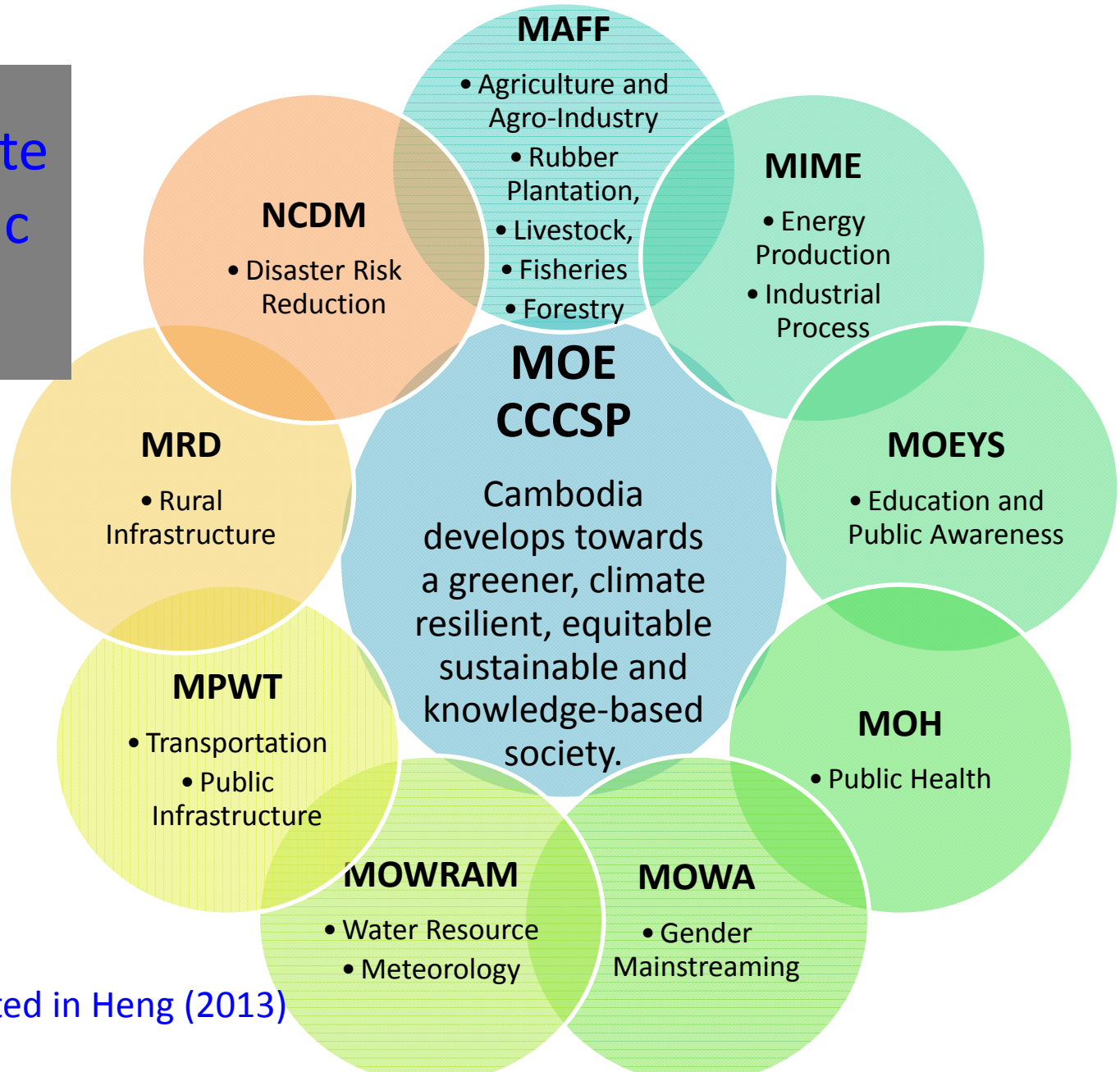
Overview (Tonle Sap lake)

- Vulnerable to climate change
- Infrastructure development has negative impacts on the Tonle Sap lake flood pulse areas
- Combined climate change and human impact affect livelihoods
- Water, as a common pool resource, involved by many actors, and needs a proper policy to govern this resource



Sectoral national actors involved

Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP)



Focusing on

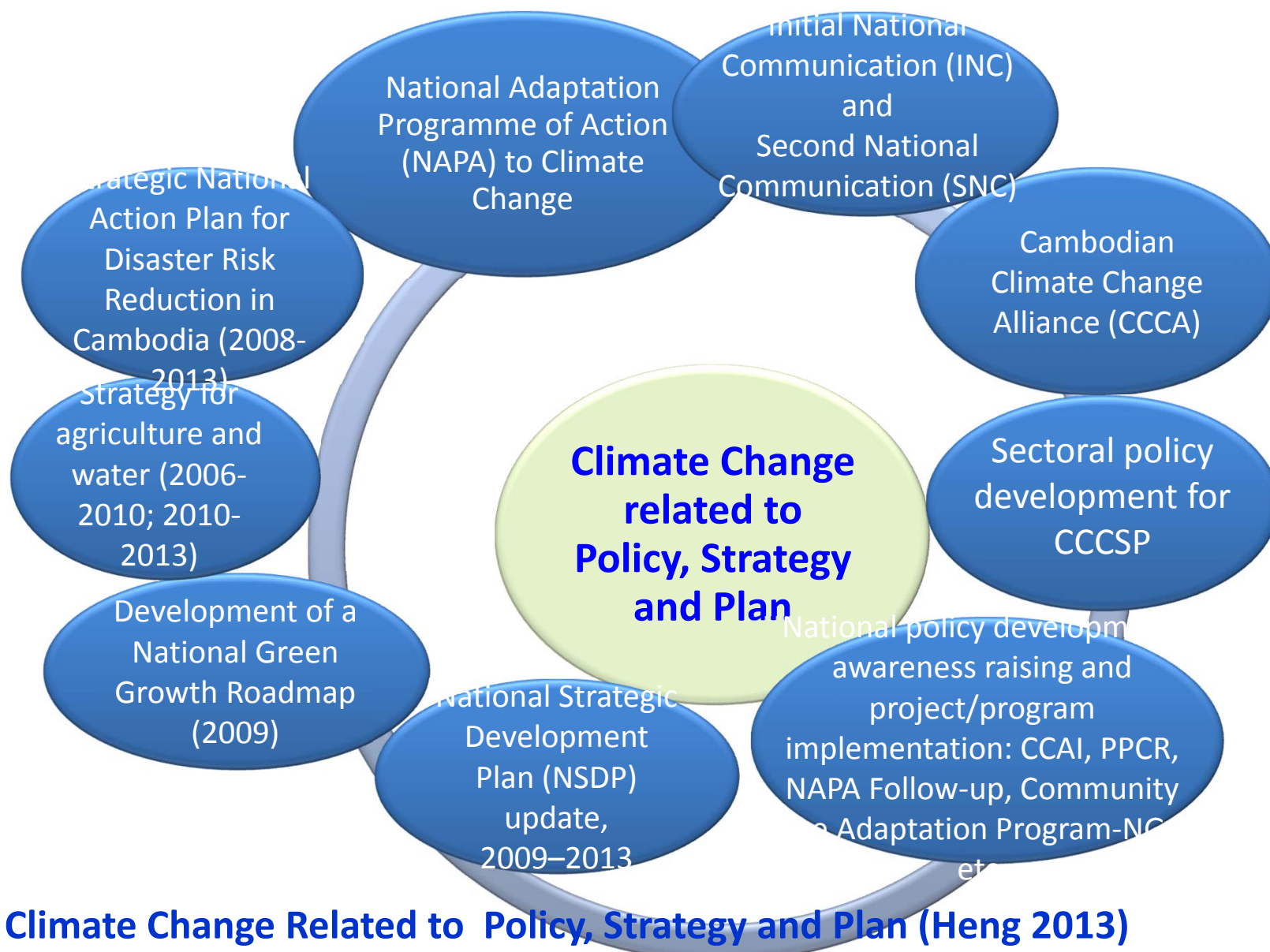
- Adaptation
- Mitigation
- Cross-Cutting Issues

Source: CCCA (2012) cited in Heng (2013)

Sectoral sub-national actors

- Provincial department and district office
- Commune level: commune council and CBOs
 1. Farmer Water User Community
 2. Community of Fisheries
 3. Forestry community

Policies and legal framework related to water and climate change



Policies and legal framework related to water and climate change

- Water
 - Water law (2007) – takes the concept of IWRM
 - National policy on water resources management (2004)
 - Draft sub-decree on RBM, water allocation and licensing, water quality, and Farmer Water User Community (FWUC)
- Climate change adaptation: NAPA (2006)
 - Agriculture,
 - Water
 - Coastal area
 - Health

Challenges to be addressed

- Local communities and authorities are yet to have solid knowledge of climate change and readiness to adapt to it in terms of water use, e.g., lack of local planning and resource (finance, infrastructure).
- Although the issue of climate change has been assessed since 2001 and National Adaptation Program of Action to Climate Change was adopted in 2006, it is not integrated well in sectoral policy development.
- In the drafting of the 2014-18 National Strategic Development Plan, there is a mandate requiring all line ministries to include green development and identify climate change risks surrounding their sectoral activities and to come up with measures to address the impacts.

Overview (*Objectives*)

1. Explore this current institutional arrangement (organizational and policy design) and their interactions in water management in coping with the impacts of climate change
2. Investigate how resilience the current institutional arrangement/interactions are at the local level
3. Investigate stakeholders' perceptions over how the current governance structure/system could be made more resilient and analyze how these converge or diverge from the current resilience thinking

Methods

1. Document Reviews
 - a. Policy documents related to water and climate change governance
 - b. National/international empirical literature
 - c. International theoretical literature on institutional resilience
2. At the national level: Discussions with key actors
3. At provincial and commune levels: key informant interviews, focus group discussions, observations in various commune development meetings, multi-stakeholder workshops at the provincial level

Progress to date

- Seven partners (three Cambodian ministries, two universities, CDRI, and M-POWER) are formed.
- A unique multi-partner project is by far the most difficult process and poses an important challenge to coordinate the work, but is considered to be the most workable for policy influencing
- Steering Committee, first meeting and Inception workshop was successfully conducted.
- Preliminary field visit to three catchments around the Tonle Sap lake was conducted.
- Existing methods/approaches to V&A assessment are being reviewed.